

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
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Press

MAY SHOW JURORS
PICK 277 PIECES

The jury for Cleveland's 45TH MAY SHOW has selected 277 works of art for exhibition at The Cleveland Museum of Art when the show opens May 8. The exhibition will close June 16. The panel spent four days last week making the selection from 2976 entries.

The jury picked 155 crafts objects including 46 pieces of pottery, 29 textiles, 54 enamels, 2 pieces of furniture and 24 pieces of jewelry and metal-work. This represents a total of 155 works of art; 35 fewer crafts objects than were exhibited in last year's MAY SHOW.

In the selection of paintings, sculpture, graphic prints and photographs, the jury exercised even greater selectivity, choosing 34 oil paintings, 10 water-color and pastel works, 23 drawings and graphic prints, 38 photographs and 17 sculptures. In last year's MAY SHOW 251 objects were exhibited in these classes.

In judging the poster class (for which a \$100 prize is set aside) the jurors declined to make a selection, commenting that the quality of the entries was not sufficiently high to warrant inclusion of any.

The jurors were particularly severe with oil paintings, according to the Museum's Director, Sherman E. Lee. In reviewing the assembled exhibition, Dr. Lee said: "These are possibly the toughest critical standards we've ever seen applied by a MAY SHOW jury -- it emphasizes the trend toward selectivity characteristic of the last five years or so. I feel the jurors might well have left in a good number of the oil paintings which were ultimately rejected, but

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the undeniable result of the rigid standards in judgement is an extremely selective show. "I would point out, further," Dr. Lee continued, "That another panel, operating on the same level of standards, might pick almost the same number of paintings, but might well have selected many different works. Our current collection is therefore a choice by a jury of individual men and women of, first of all, the very best work by Cleveland artists, and secondly of what the jurors personally liked. All juries must finally come to this."

"We began with a very well-qualified group of jurors -- accordingly we finished with a well integrated exhibition. It seems to me that this MAY SHOW demonstrates that Cleveland artists have the creative and technical credentials to exhibit anywhere, for this was the standard by which their work was judged."

Chairman of the jury panel was Andrew C. Ritchie, Director of the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven. In appraising the crafts collection, Mr. Ritchie worked with Margret Craver, consulting silversmith of West Newbury, Massachusetts, and Jack Lenor Larsen, New York textile designer. For paintings, sculpture and graphic prints, Mr. Ritchie was joined by Herbert Ferber, a New York sculptor whose work is presently being shown in a retrospective exhibit at The Whitney Museum in Manhattan, and Joseph Hirsch, painter and lithographer of New York. The photographs were selected by Ansel Adams of Carmel, California.

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